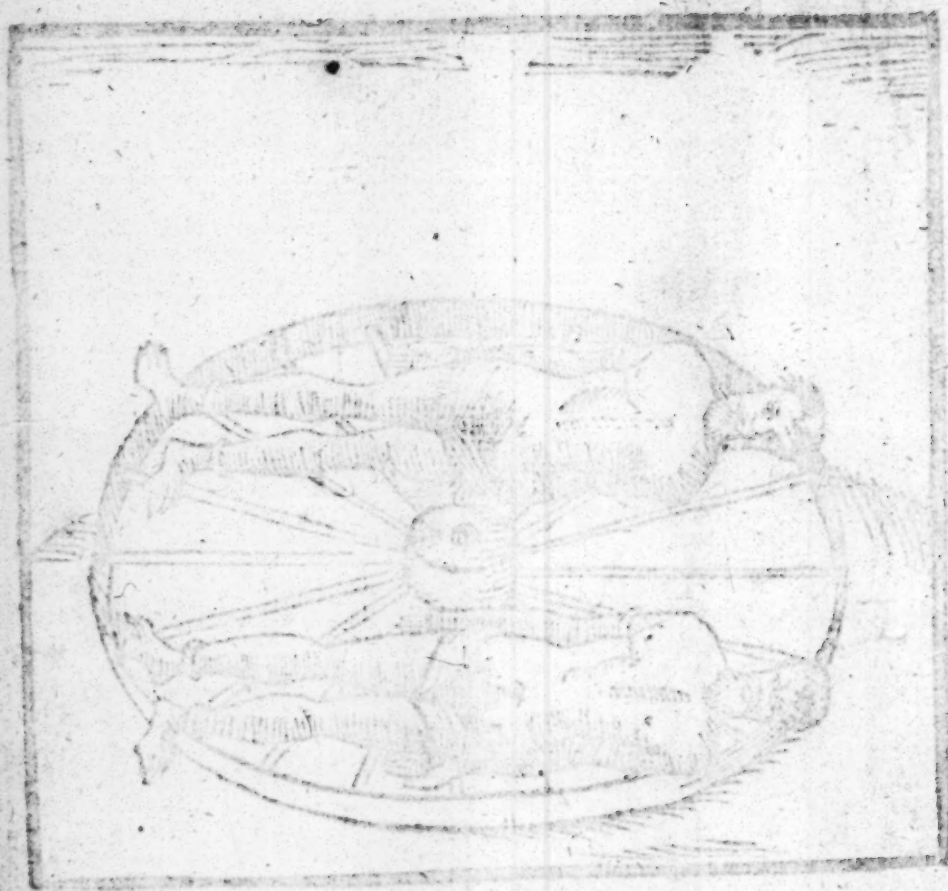


A



A

SVETHLAND and Poland VVarres.

A Souldiers returne out of Sweden, and his
Newes from the VVarres:

OR,

Sweden and Poland vp in Armes.

And the entertainement of English Souldiers there:
with the fortunes and successe of those 1200.
men that lately went thither.



At London printed for Nathaniell Butler.

1610.

SAVETHLAND

and Poland Vices.

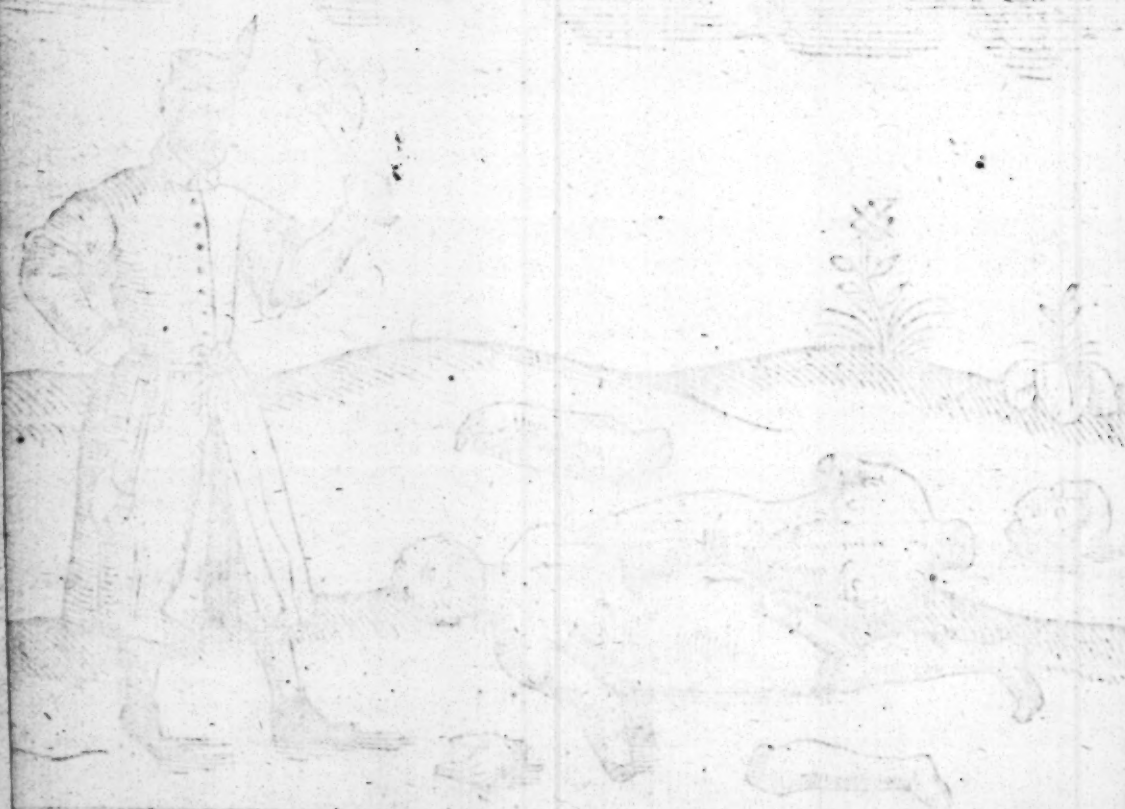
A Short History of the

Reformation in

Poland and

the Reformation in

the




At London Printed by J. Sturges

1690



To the Reader.

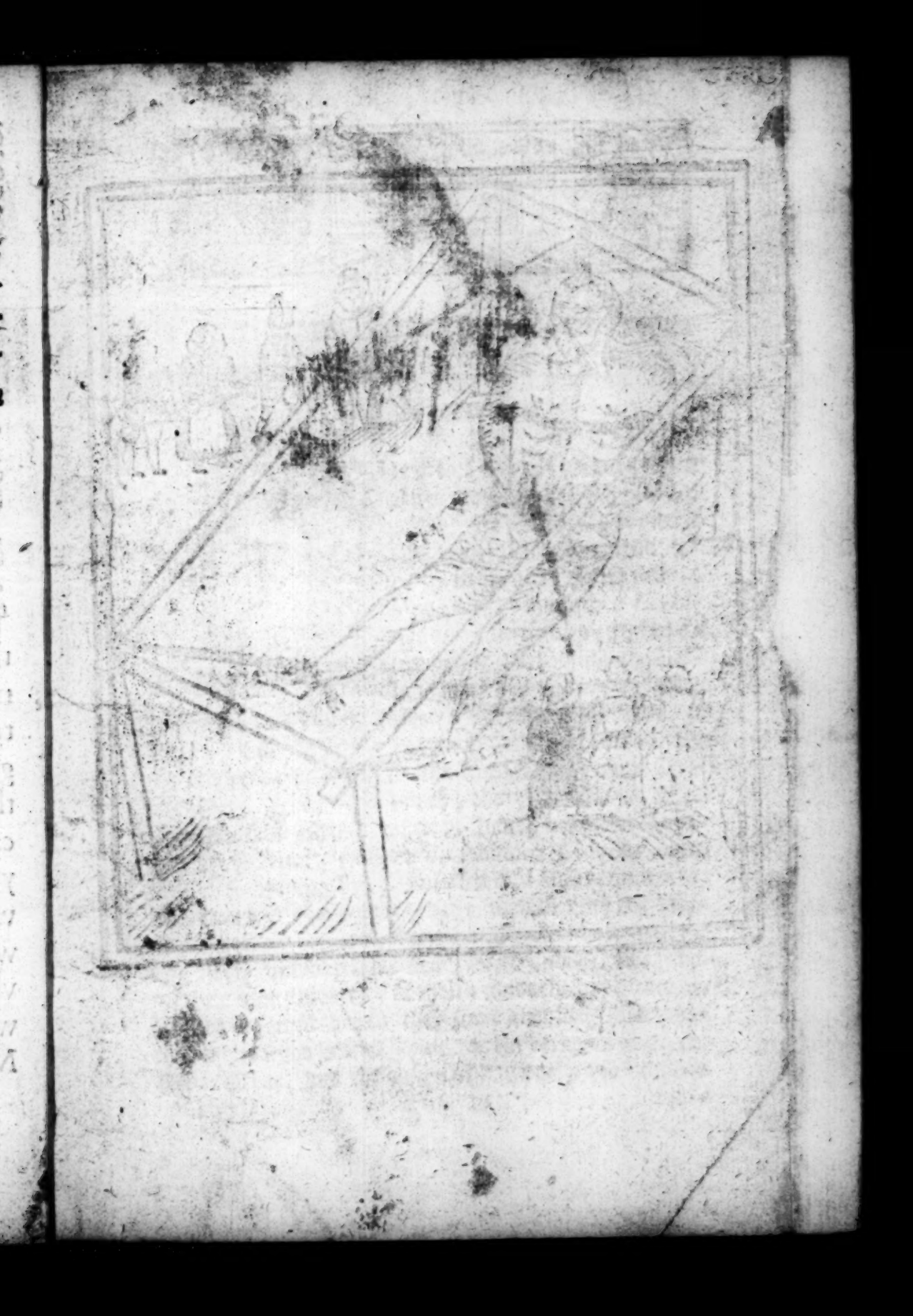
Countrymen, I haue for your sakes drawne a Picture, both of my owne, and other Englishmens miseries: You may in halfe an hower runne ouer these afflictions, which I and the rest (that smarted by them) were many months enduring. I know it shall be a pleasure to you, to reade what wee haue felt: and as great a happinesse to me (who haue published this:) if the Story of a poore Souldiers trauels, can bring you any contentment, let me finde at your handes (I intreate you) the selfe same loue which Sicke-men receiue from their friendes, when they begin to recouer: And that is a kinde visitation and reioycing, to see a crazed and weake body reduced to his former strength: Mine (I thanke God) is now so, and shall grow

A iii.

more.

To the Reader.

more and more into health, by how much the
more you pittie my misfortunes: you cannot
pittie them, vnlesse you know them, you can-
not know them vnlesse you reade this ouer
which I lende you; and I would not willingly
haue you read, vnlesse you buy, because you
should pay for the Warres somewhat as
well as I: not doubting therefore of
the one, because I hope you
desire the other: I wish
your owne wishes
to you: and so
farewell.







A Souldiers Returne out of Sweden, and his Newes from the Warres.

The Olive Tree of Peace (upon which groweth the happinesse, wealth, and prosperitie of euerie Kingdome) hath flourished (euen vp to his full height) so long in England, that other Countreies and Kingdomes neighbouring by her, beholding the blessings, benefits and contentation which England hath gathered by tasting the fruites of Peace, haue gotten some bryanches of that Tree, and (by our example) planted the same in their owne Dominions. In doing of which, the French haue filled their Coffers with Treasures, which before were opened by violence, emptied by seditious Leagues, and waisted to nothing by the miseries of a tedious and intestine warre: the Spanishe haue likewise with the same streame safely returned from the Mines of both Indies, and richly unladed their Argozies of Indian golde, upon their owne shoares, of which golde (before Peace inhabited amongst them) they were euer least saue when they approached nearest home, as the bringers of it from thence hither, and the loiers of it there, did in those times

Newes out of Sweucland:

times (the one with ioy, the other with madnes and sorow) openly testifie.

So that these fires (whether of Ambition, of Zeale, or of Rage, I knowe not) which for many late yeres haue flamed in the Low Countries, had not bin kindled there, I thinke the very name of Warre had bin almost forgotten, and the right pronounciation of it unknowne to these parts of christendome. The violent heate of which Belgicke fires was so lasting, and burned so high, that it serued as a Beacon on the top of a hill, to call vnto their help other forren nations (who befoze were but lookers on) and inticed them (through the thirst of glozy, honour and fame which are gotten in the fires) to become partners and sharers in the variable fortunes of those Battelles of the Dutch and Spanish. Insomuch that the Drumme being vnbraced here, and hung vp by the walls (as hauing no vse of such thunder amongst vs, vnlesse it were for pleasure,) and most of our men of Action and of the Sword hearing the sound of theirs, and being drawn thither, I thinke it was then, and is now stil possible to call together 20000. of our english nation into one place, and amongst them all not to find or picke out one Souldier, when in other forren realmes (next continually with bypoates) it hath bin, and to this day is hard to call together 100000. and to call out of them any other person but a Souldier.

The Schoole of Warre decaying, and being throwne downe in one kingdome, hath from time to time bin erected in another. And as men who prolesse other Arts and Sciences, will (if they loue them truely) trauell ouer the world to enrich their bosomes with the perfitt knowledge of those things with which their soules are inflamed: So the militarie Scholler (whose best learning is Practise,) accounteth euery Land his owne country where this profession of Armes is held in honoz: and no loue of parents, wife, childzen, kined or friends hath power to keepe him from those glorious paths of danger.

Newes out of Sweucland.

By this meanes, many Englishmen that were hitherto obscurely, and might (otherwise) haue died forgotten, haue by their noble adventures and seruices in foren realmes (farre hence remoted) not onely won eternall honours to their owne names, but also crowned their nation and native country with neuer dying glories: And in despite of Enuy & Oblivion (twoe enemies to virtue) who would beat downe the memorie of such high spirits, by throwing them into base and unknowne graves, Fame does evermore build up tombs for them in her immortall chronicles.

Whilste all men here at home late playing with the Sun-beames of Quietnes, and that all the low Country stozms began likewise to be laid downe calme, so that the English souldier had no place to retire to, but to come and lie idely on the bosome of his owne country; behold, a fresh Allarum awakes and calls him from hence into Sweden. In the warres of which kingdome what hath bin done lately, I meane only, so much as I, who was a seruitor in them, and am now the trumpet to proclaim mine owne fortunes there, haue had triall, you shall now (deere countrymen) receive a faithfull and honest relation.

Wherein I vow by the honoz of a souldier, and by the loue, obedience and loyalty which I owe to no other than my owne native countrey, I will set downe nothing but that of which (for the most part) I haue bin Ocularus testis (an eye-witness.) And albeit in this relation the truth must compell me to deliuer such matter, as happily may terrifie those that neuer bare Armes, nor followed the fortunes of a Souldier, from ever going into Sweden and to serue in those warres: farre are my thoughts (God beares record of them) from any such dissuasion. Whence all men that know what belongs to the field, can tell, that he who undertakes the life and condition of a Souldier, must endure worse and greater miseries, than I or any Englishman sent thither can vndergo in Sweden. Omitting therefore the ground of their quarrell, and not so much as once

touching the fire that hath now so lately kindled warres betwene the kings of Sweden and Poland, because the heartburnings of kingdomes one against an other are diseases of State, and not fit to be medled with by me, being beyond my cure, I will write a Storye of my owne fortunes there only, which begins as followeth.

About a fortnight befoze Midsummer, which was 1609. a company of Voluntaries to the number of 1200. soldiers, were at severall times shipped from England to passe into Sweden, to aide the king of that Countrey in his warres against the king of Poland. To which aid, diuers other nations did likewise resort, as French, High Dutch, &c. of all towhom (as occasion ministreth) mention shalbe made in their due places. Of the English companies that went thither, the first was commaunded by one Caluine a Scot; who by appointment was made lieutenant Colonel and chiefe of the other Captaines ouer the footmen. The names of which Captaines are in this following Discourse set downe.

After the first company was gone, a second number of 300. men (of which I the relater of this, was one) were put into one shippe belonging to Sweden, and came from thence forth vs. We being thus aboord, sailes were presently hoisted, anchors weighed, and by the assistance of God, wherewith the dexteritie of the mariners was furthered, in a short time had we gotten into the maine sea, and with a prosperous gale went forward on our boiage. But mans security oft-times changeth Gods fauours into sodaine indignation; so when euery one at the parting from his owne country had a mery and searelesse heart to runne to the certaine dangers that stood ready to meet him in another forren region: Behold (to put vs all in minde, that God was the God of Hostes, and that whether we went forth to fight, or laied vs downe to sleepe, whether we were on the seas, or on the land, our safeties and dangers lay all in his disposing) behold, I say, in the height of all
our

Poland warres.

our iolity, seeing so proud a saile swelling with the winds to carry vs the heauens on a sodaine altered their looks, stormes fell vpon the waters, the waters threatned destruction to our ship, and we that were in her, stood wondering betwene the hopes of an vncertaine life, & the dreadfull terror of a most imminent death. In this horroz of the seas, were we tossed so long, that all our victualles were almost spent : the misery of which, threw vs into more desperate feares: now were we assaulted by double deaths (Famine or Shipwracke) what course to take for our reliefe no man presently knew. Continue without food it was impossible, and as impossible was it for vs to recover the land in any short time, without the assured destruction of vs all. At this season, our commanders were these.

viz { Lieutenant Benson.
Lieutenant Walton, who was Promost Partiall
of the field.
And an Ancient of the Colonels company.

These our Commanders were by our rashnesse droue into worse feares than those were that layd hold vpon our selues; for whereas they were resolved (blow the winds how they could) to continue still at sea, and not to land, till they set footing at their appointed places, the common Soldiers had on the contrary part bowed and resolved to compell the mariners (seeing the present miseries. and no hopes promising better) to set vs all on shore vpon the first land that could be discovered. Our Commanders did what they could by dissuasion to alter this general resolution, because they feared it would be the losse of the greatest part of our Companies, if they came once to be scattered: and besides, they knew that it would redound to their dishonour and shame, if they should not discharge the trust imposed vpon them by our Captaines, which trust was to conduct vs & land vs before, whilst our

Newes out of Sweueland.

Chieftaines remained a while behind in England, to take
vp the rest of our Companies. Yet all this notwithstanding,
Land being discovered, there was no eloquence in the
world able to keep vs aboard our ship, but every man swore
if the master of the ship would not set vs on the shore, the
sailes should be taken into our own hands, and what was
resolved vpon (touching present landing) should in despite
of danger be effected. Upon this, the master of the ship and
the mariners told vs, that if we put to land in that place,
we should all either perish for want of victualles, which
were not to be had in that country, or else should haue our
throates cut by the people. But the dangers in which we
were, and which we felt, being more certaine (as we ima-
gined) than any other could be, of which we had yet no
sence or feeling, & our hopes perswading vs that we could
not fall into worse, than those we tasted already: besides,
all of vs construing the words of the mariners, as not spo-
ken by them, but as if they had bin set on to do so by our
commanders in the ship, who by all means fauored to keep
vs all aboard: At the last we resolved rather to try our
bad fortunes on the land, and to furnish there (if that kind
of death must needs attend vpon vs) than to perish on
the seas, which we knew could afford vs no such mercie
as the land was likely to lend vs. So that in the end, we
got so neare the shore side, as the sailes durst venter with-
out danger to the ship: and there casting ancho2. our small
boat was hoisted out, & on sho2s we went, as fast as possi-
bly we could. When our Officers sawe, that there was
no remedie, nor force to detaine vs aboard, they then dis-
heartned vs no longer, but to our great comforts told it,
that the master of the ship (which thing he himselfe like-
wise openly confessed) knew both the Land and the Co-
uernour thereof (as indeed we proued afterwards he did:)
and therefore desired they all our companies not to misbe-
haue themselves toward the people, for that it was an
Island called Luthland, vnder the dominion of the king of
Denmarke,

Newes out of Sweueland.

Denmarke, but subiect to the command of a Lord, who vnder the king (as his substitute) was the gouernour.

And that we might be the better vnto a ciuill behauiour towards thinhabitants, our officers further told vs, that they would repaire to the Lord Gouernour of the country, and acquaint him with the cause of our vnerpected landing there; vpon which we all promised to offer no violence to the people; neither was that promise violated, because we found the inhabitants tractable, and as quiet towards vs, as we to them: yet the greater numbers of them ran away with feare, at the first sight of vs, because (as afterward they repozted) it could not be remembred by any of them, that they euer either beheld themselves, or euer heard any of their ancestozs report, that any strange people had landed in those places and partes of the Yland: for they thought it impossible (as they told vs) y^e any ship should ride so nere the shore, as ours did, by reason of the dangerous Sands.

Our officers so soone as they were at land, went to the gouernour of the Yland, whilst the souldiers (who staid behind them) ran to the houses of the Ylanders, of purpose to talke with the people, and at their hands to buy victuals for a present reliefe: but when we came among them, they could neither vnderstand vs, nor we them; so that the market was spoiled, and we could get nothing for our money: yet by such signes as we could make, they vnderstood our wants, pittied them, and bestowed vpon vs (freely) a little of such things as they had. Yet in the end, a happie means of our reliefe was found out by a souldier amongst vs, who was a Dane by birth, but his educatiō having bin in Engl. no man knew him to be other than an englishmā.

This Dane made vse of his owne native language, to the good both of himselfe, and vs, certifying the people (who the rather belieued him because he spake in their knotone tongue) of the cause that compello vs to land vpon their coast, and that we intended no mischiefe, violence,

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or money : to which report of his they giuing credit, stood
 in lesse feare of vs than before, and thereupon furnished
 vs with all such necessaries, as the countrey afforded to
 sustaine our wants. The food which we bought of them
 was only fish, and a kind of course bread, exceeding cheap.
 Of which food there was such plentie, that for the value of
 3. d. we had as much fish as xx. men could eat at a meale,
 and yet none of the worst sorts of fish, but even of the ve-
 ry best and daintiest, as Hackrels and Lobsters, and such
 like. In which our trading with the poore simp's people,
 we found them so ignorant, that many, yea most of them
 regarded not whether you gave them a counter, or a shil-
 ling; for the bigger the piece was, the more fish they would
 giue for it : but besides fish we could get no other suste-
 nance from them, or at least, could not understand that
 they had any other. But obserue what happened in the
 meane time that we were thus in trafficke with the Is-
 landers for victualls, our Officers as before is said) be-
 ing gone to the Lord Governour, who lay about xij. english
 miles from the sea side, the maister of our ship on a sud-
 den hoised up sailes, and away he went, leaving one of
 his otome men at shore, who accompanied our Officers
 as their guide, through the Island. The cause of the ships
 departure, did so much the more amaze vs, by reason it
 was so vnerpected, & the reason thereof unknowne to vs :
 But we imagin'd the maister of the ship and mariners fea-
 red to receiue vs into the vessel again, because some of our
 men at their being at sea, threated the sailers, and offered
 the abuses before they could be brought to set vs on land.

On the next day following the Lord Governour of the
 Island came to vs, bringing our Officers along with him,
 yet not being so confident of vs, but that (for auoiding of
 any dangers that might happen) he came strongly guarded
 with a trope of Horsemen well armed. And (vpon his
 first approach) demanding where our ship was, it was
 tolde him in what strange manner it stole away and for-
 sooke

Poland warres.

ooke vs: he then asked what we intended to doe, to which we all answered that we would bee ruled by our Officers: hereupon hee inquired of them what they would haue him to doe in their behalfe, they requested nothing else at his handes, but onely his fauorable passe, through the Country, and a Ship to cary vs forward into Sweden: to which request hee made answer, that he could grant no such licence vntill he had made the king of Denmarke acquainted with our being there, for the Island belonged to the King he sayd, and he was no more but an Officer or Substitue vnder him. Yet in consideration that our Ship had so left vs in a strange land, hee promised to do all that lay in his power to effect our good: but withal told vs that the people had inward feares and were possessed with suspitions, that our intent was of landing vpon such a coast (were not as we our selues affirmed, onely to get foode, but rather to make spoyle of the poore inhabitants: And therefore to remoue all such feares and felosies out of the peoples hearts, he held it most conuenient for the generall safeties of both parties, to separt our numbers, and to spread vs abroad in the Country, one and one in a house, where it was agreede that we should receiue both a lodging, and meate, and drinke, vntill he had sent to the King of Denmarke, some of his owne men with our Officers, to vnderstand his Maiesties pleasure and what should become of vs.

To this we all agreed, and accordingly for that purpose, were by the Lord Governour, safely by this Armed horsemen which were his guard, conducted to his owne house. To that place were all the people of the Island summoned together, they came at the appointed day to the number of five or six hundred, circling vs round with Bills Halberds two-hand swords and diuers other weapons: And at the first sight of vs grew into such rage, that presently they would haue cutt all our throates, and helued vs to pieces but that the Authority, of the governour kept them

Swethland and

from offering violence, yet was he sayne to vse the sayrest meanes of perswasion to allay their fury. For they would not belieue but that our ariuall there was to destroy them, their wiues and childezen and make a conquest at last of their land. Yet the Gouernor shewed vnto them all our number, which was but 300. men, and those all vni-weaponed, and so consequently, neither likely, nor able to vndertake any mischiese against them.

Then stode by some bolder than the rest, and teaching the rest to be moze cruell by swearing to haue our blouds ere they stirred from thence, because (as they alleadged) our yeelding to be disarmed, was done but in policy to beguile them, with securenesse, whereas they rather doubted that some second supplies were not farre behinde vs, that would likewise land on their coasts, and ioyn in the same conquest. But the Gouernor looking vpon the condition of men so miserable as we appeared, with an eye of clearer iudgement and pittie, than the common people could, who were euen blinded with their owne fury, insulence and madnesse, shewed the true nature of a wise magistrate, by mingling threats with milde speeches, charging the vnruly multitude, vpon paine of death, not to touch the least finger of vs, but to diuide vs equally into severall villages, as it should seme best vnto them, and to bestow kind and louing entertainment vpon vs til they heard farther from him, which command of his they accordingly performed.

Immediately vpon this settling of them and vs in quietnesse, one of our officers with two of the Gouernors men, were sent away to the king of Denmarke, to vnderstand his Highnesse pleasure, which Messengers were no sooner dispatched about the busines, but the Flanders growing moze and moze suspicious, came againe to the Gouernor, and never would cease or giue ouer troubling him, vntill they had gotten him to make proclamation (in hearing of vs all) That if any of vs would freely discouer the true cause:

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cause of our landing vpon that coast, and reueale the plots of any dangerous enterprise intended against them, he should not onely be rewarded with great store of money, and haue new apparell to his barks, but also should without tortures, imprisonment, or death be set free, and sent backe againe into his owne countrey. This proclamation stricke vs all with feare and astonishment. because albeit we to our selues were not guiltie of any plot, or villanie intended to the place or people, yet we knew this might be a meanes to endanger all our liues, how innocent soeuer. Our suspicion of danger fell out according to our feares, for one Thomas Griffyn a Welch man, one of our owne company, but a person as it appeared, of a base and diuellish condition, being tempted with the baite of gold, resolved to enrich himselfe, albeit it were by the shedding of innocent blood: And thereupon like a false traitor to all the rest of his fellowes, he went and kneled before the Governour, and with a face counterfeiting a guiltines and fearefull destruction, told him, that if he might be forgiven for his part, and haue his life warranted, he would discover such a secret, that the opening of the same should be good to all the Countrey, and the concealing thereof the Islands better ruine, with the confusion of the people. The Governour being glad of this discovery so promised, assured Griffyn both of his life, and of the reward, willing him not to feare any danger, but boldly, and with a constant bolome to lay open what he knew: vpon which wordes, the traitterous Iudas told him for certaine, that we came thither onely and for no other purpose than to surprize the Island, kill the inhabitants, make spoile of their wiues and goods, and hauing set fire of their townes and villages to flie to sea againe. Yet for all this would not the Governour beleue him, telling him it was a matter very vlikely, that so small a number, so distressed for want of food, so weather-beaten and so disarmed, should venture vpon an enterprise so full of dangerous euents, but the villainere,

Swe. hland and

plied, that all these complaints of want, were but songs to beguile the people, for that upon the least Allarum given, other shippes that lay houerling at sea, and furnished both with men and armour, would on the sodaine, and that very shortly land for the same desire of spoile, as these their fellows had done, and therefore counselled the Governour to prevent such imminent mischieses betimes.

The Governour being thus farre urged, presently called befoze him lieutenant Walton, whose lodging was appointed in his house, and hauing related to him all that Griffyn had discovered, and withall, demanding of lieutenant Walton what he could say to this matter of treason and conspiracy: the lieutenant at the first stood amazed, and utterly denied any such intended villany, protesting by the faith of a Souldier, that this report of the Welch man proceeded from the rancour of a vile traitors heart, and therefore on his knees intreated the Governour, not to giue credite to so base a villaine (who for the greedinesse of a little money, went about to sell all their liues) and to make all the inhabitants of the Island become murderers: adding further, that if the Governour would but giue him leaue, he would make the treacherous flauie befoze his face there presently confesse that he had belyed his fellowes, and that there was no such Conspiracie amongst them. The Governour gaue him authority to vse his best meanes to trie a traitor, because it was not he said, his desire to haue the blood of any Christians shed wrongfully: but if he should find the Welch mans words to be true, he could do no other wise than apprehend him as traitors to his King and the Country and to lay such punishment vpon vs, as should be found due by their lawes. But lieutenant Walton earnestly intreating the Governour, that if he had any such ill thought of vs, he would be pleased to hold him in fetters as prisoner for vs all, till the truth might be found out: And that traitorous villaine Thomas Griffyn being opposed face to face with the
lieute.

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lieutenant still continuing in his first resolution, and most boldly persevering in his accusations against his poore countrymen that lay scattred in severall houses about the Island, not hearing of any such matters: Behold how all that Griffyn had discovered, were by a strange accident strongly confirmed to passe for currant, and whatsoever lieutenant Walton had uttered in opposition of Griffyns slaunders, were held as vntruths, and traps to betray the Country. For, iust as the traitor had told the Gouvernor, that more ships were not farre off, but were ready to second vs upon our arriuall, it chanced that in the very heat of this businesse, and their feares of daunger where none was, two other ships full of armed souldiers came to the same place of the Island where our ship put in: These two ships had brought souldiers out of the lowe Countries (a cessation of warres being there) and were going into Swerthland, as we were, but by crosse windes and fowle weather, lay so long at sea, that wanting victualls, they were driuen in hither for succour. Whose sodaine approach and arriuall being signified to the L. Gouvernor, the welch mans wordes were then thought true: all the Island was presently vp in Armes to resist the strength and furie of a most dangerous supposed enemy: and so secretly did the Inhabitants put on Armes, that we who were kept like prisoners amongst them knew nothing of these vppares. But night approaching, the Generall gave speciall charge that secret watch should be set and kept ouer euery souldier that lodged in any mans house, which by the common people was as narrowly performed, for they did not only watch vs as the Gouvernor commanded, but amongst themselves a secret Conspiracie was made, that in the dead of night, when we should be fast asleepe, they should come and take vs in our beds, and there to binde vs with cords: it being an easie thing to do so, when our company were diuided one from another ouer the whole Island. At the houre agreed vpon, the plot was put in force, for they

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entred our Chambers, and bound euerie Souldier as he lay, making them all ready like so many sheepe, marked out for the slaughter. For mine owne part, I had five men and three women to binde me, who so cunningly tyed me fast with cordes, whilst I slept, and felt nothing, nor dreamt of any such matter. that with a twitch onely I was plucked starke naked out of my bed, and laide vpon the colde earth vnderneath a Table, with my armes bound behinde me, so extreamely hard, as foure men could drawe them together, my feete tied to the scote of the Table, and my necke bound to the vpper part of board of the Table.

In these miserable tortures lay I, and all the rest (in severall houses) all that night, and the most part of the next day, our armes and legges being pinched and wrung together in such pitiless manner, that the verie blood gushed out at the fingers ends of many.

The enduring of which torments was so much the more grievous, because none knew what we had done that could incense them to this so strange and spitefull cruelty, neither could we, albeit we inquired, learne of our tormentors the cause, because we vnderstode not their language. But to me whilst I stood thus vpon the racks, the old woman mine Hostesse came often running in and cryed in her language to me Traue vp Iesus, which was as much to say, Pray to Iesus: by which wordes of her I perceiued they meant to kill me: And still she mumbled out a stozie, which I could not interpret, of one William, who lay at the next house I knew, so that I gessed her meaning was, that William, and all the rest of our company were in fetters too, like my selfe. Yet my priuate thoughts freed all the rest, because I was perswaded they had done nothing to deserue such tyrannous handling: Mary of my selfe, and my neighbour William I stood somewhat in a perillous doubt, that they punished vs for a knaueserie committed the very selfe same euening, after which

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which we were intangled in the net, and could by no strugling get out. And that was this.

I happened that night, when this coniuring was to binde vs like wicked spirites in such damnable circles. to suppe with the said William at his lodging: and whilest we sate merrily at our meate, not mistrusting what Spiders were weaning ouer our heades, to catch vs like flies in their cob-webs, and then to kill vs, into our roome comes stumbling a pedlar, with a packe and a bore at his backe: He haining so fit an Anuile to breake ieaills vpon, forgot our selues where we were, and beganne to growe merry in English with Seignior Mountebanke our Pedlar, but he gabling in his language to vs, as fast as we did in ours to him, both laughed at one another, yet knew not for what. At last downe throws he his packe and bore on the Table, and being a merry lad, and a customer to the house, went out of our roome to visite the household. In the meane time my pew fellow William spying his opportunity. opened the Pedlars box, which he thought had bin crammed with sweete meates, but in stead of Sugar plumes he found nothing there but Sowe, the purchase of which scowring boty, made Williams heart leape for ioy, for (quoth he) my linnen thou seest is soyle, and this Sowe shall make me to morrow a cleane gentleman. And thereupon like a conscionable Chaundier. take out some halfe a pound and gaue great weight: the one halfe of which prize I shared in, because I had as much neede as he to be washed, yet none of vs both had neede of the shating which we mette withall anone afterwards. But note how iustly I was plained: The selfe same Pedlar was one of the men that helped to binde me: the knaue was lesse mercifull in tying his knottes than a Beale or Hang-man, and more nimble to bind my hands behind me, than to binde vp his packe. I seeing what were the Pedlar made of my body, and how villainously the rest of his Consozt played vpon these hempen strings, that were

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were wound vp about my armes, legges, and necke, thought verily that he and his crew had found me guilty for his Sope, and so condemning me behinde my backe, came likewise to punish me both behind my backe, and to my face.

But crying out to them, because I said they ieaused not with me, that the Soape was in my pocket, all the pittifull signes I could deuise were made, to shew I had thrust it there, but they for all the noise I made, plyed their trussing me vp in halters worse than five hangings, neither regarding the cries of the poore, imitating therein many worldly rich men, nor understanding whether I cursed them to the pit of hell, for so hard binding me, or whether I prayed them to vntie me, neither did Monsieur Medlar misse his halfe pound of Sope, so that I was worried by a sort of scurres, I knew how, and where, but I knew not why.

Whilist thus the whole Iland was full of the cries of wretched men, and that euery house seemed a shambles, ready to haue Innocents there butchered the next day, and that euery Ilander had the office of a common cut-throate or executioner, Gods wonderfull working turned the streame of all their cruelty: For the two shippes that came out of the Lowe Countreies, and whose arrival draue so many miserable soules almost vpon the rockes of destruction, hauing in that dolefull and ruinous night, gotten some prouision aboard, weighed Anchor, and departed towards Swethland.

Which happy felos being serued vp at breakefast to the Lord Gouernour betimes in the morning, and that the Shippes had offered no violence to the Countrey, but had payd for what they took: About eleauen of the clocke the very same day at none, we were all like vnto so many dead men cutt downe, and bidden to stand vpon our legges, although very few had scarce legges that could stand.

Of one accident more that befell, I thinke it not a
misse to take note, which began merily, but ended tragi-
cally, and in blood; and that was this: foure of our
company being lodged in one village, and they being
bound to the peate, as you may perceiue the rest were; it
happened that an host where one of them lay, had tippled
hard, and gotten a hozles disease, called the Staggers: In
comes he stumbling to the roome where the poore Eng-
lishman was bound to the table, hand and foote: which
thing the drunken Scot beholding, drew his Hatchet,
which he wore at his girdle, according to the fashion of
the country, and because he would be sure his prisoner



should not escape, with his hatchet he cleft his head. And thin-
king

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king in that drunken murderous humoꝝ, he had done a
gloꝝious act, away he rāles out of his owne house to that
house where the other thꝛē Souldiers lay bound, where
beating at the doꝛes and windows, and the hoast asking
what he meant to make such a damnable noyse, he told
him so well as he could stammer it out, that the Lord
Gouernour had sent him thither to put the thꝛē English



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men to death. Upon this the diuell and he (hand in hand) were let in, the one standing so close at the others elbow, that he neuer left him till he had cleft two of their heads, that lay bound: and being then weary (it should seeme) with playing the butcher, he neuer ceased swearing and staring, and flourishing with his bloody axe about their heads, till the people of the house had hung the third man vpon a beaine in y^e roome. But they hauing lesse cunning in y^e Hang-mans trade, then will to practise it, tyed not y^e halter so fast about his neck, as to strangle him: so that after he had hung an houre, he was cut downe, reuiued, againe, was well, and afterwards was slaine in Russia.

This bloody feast being thus ended, and all sorowes as we well hoped, being now blowne ouer to our freedom, and sitting at liberty from our torments; on the necke of these former miseries fell a mischiefe, moze dangerous to vs then all the rest: for tidings were brought to the Gouvernour, that our Ancient, who trauielled with the Gouvernours two men to the King, had traitterously murdered those his guides, and then ran away himselfe: vpon this rumoz, nothing but thundring and lightening flew from the common peoples mouthes: there was no way now with vs but one, and that one was, to haue all our throats cut, or our heads cleft with their axes. But the gouernour pittying our misfortunes, laboured both by his authority, and by faire speeches, to keepe that many-headed dogge (the multitude) from barking. And in the end, when he saw nothing but the blood of vs poore Englishmen would satisfie their thirst, because they still held vs in suspition and feare, he most nobly, and like a vertuous Magistrate, pawned to the inhumane Rascals, (to my knowledge) his honour, all that ener he was worth, yea his very life vnto them, that within three dayes the messengers sent to the King, should returne home, and that during those three dayes we should be of good behaviour to the Islanders: and besides that

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they did not returne in such a time, that then he would deliuer vs vp into their hands, to be vsed (or rather misse-vs'd) in what manner they best desired.

But God (whose helpe is most ready, when wretched man hath most need of him) put forth a hand of mercy, and preserved vs: for our Ancient with the Gouernours two men, came home vpon the third day, to the Gouernours house, and brought from the King of Denmarke his licence, to carry vs not onely through the country, but commanding that we should be allowed shipping also, at conuenient place, to carry vs to Sweueland, whither we were to go: And according to this licence the Gouernour caused vs to be called all together the very next day; at which time, Thomas Griffin the Welsh Iudas, who had all this while lye feasting in the house of the Lord Gouernour, began to tremble and to repent him of his villany, begging most base forgiveness on his knees, both from the Gouernour, and vs his countrymen and fellowsouldiers, protesting that what he did came out of his feare to saue his owne life. But our Officers (vpon hearing him speake thus) had much adoe to keepe the companies from pulling downe the house where Griffin lay, because they would in that rage haue hewed the villain in peeces.

But leauing him and all such betrayers of mens blood to the hell of their owne consciences, let vs set forward out of this infortunate Island, & not stay in any place else, till in small boates we come by water to Elzinore in Denmarke, where wee ioyfully got aboard once more; and are hopping vp sailes for Sweueland. Yet euen in this sun-shine day a storme fallies vpon vs too: for our Officers not having sufficient money to furnish vs with victuals, we were enforced to payne our Ancient and Lieutenant Walton, for the safe returne of the ship, with condition that they should not be released untill a sufficient summe of money was sent to defray all charges.

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charges. So that we left our Officers behinde vs; but the King of Sweeland did afterwards release them, and then they came to vs. But before their coming, we hauing a good winde, landed at a place called Newleas in Sweue: and from thence were carryed to Stockholme, (the Kings seate) and there was the King at the same time: betwene which two places it was a dayes march on horsebacke.

Upon this our arriual at Stockholme, we met with the rest that had gone before vs, and with diuers others of our countrymen, that came out of the Low-countries, as before is related. In this place we lay so long, and had such poore meanes, that wanting money to buy foode, we wanted foode to maintaine life, and so a number of vs were ready to sterue: till in the end, our miseries making vs desperate, we fell together by the eares with the Burgers of the towne: in which scrambling confusion and mutiny, euery man got one thing or other, of which he made present money to relieue his body withall: yet lay we at the walles of the citty, crying out continually for money, money, till our throates grew hoarse with bawling, but the stones of the walles gaue more comfort to vs, then the inhabitants. One day (aboue all the rest) we heard, that the King was to ride a hunting; and we imagining that all the abuses, wrongs, and miseries, which we endured, proceeded from some vnder-hand hard dealing, and packing of our Captaines and Officers, resolved to gather about the King at his coming forth, & to cry out for money: but the King being angry (as we supposed) came riding amongst vs, drawing his pistoll from the saddle bow, as if he purposed to haue shot some of vs: but seeing none of vs to shrink from him, nor to be dismayed, he rode backe againe, we following him, & desiring, he would either giue vs money, or else to kill vs out right; one amongst the rest (whose name was William Arrane) spake to the King aloud, thus: I hold it

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honor to dye by the hands of a King, but basely to sterue to death, I will neuer suffer it. Upon these our clamours, the King looking better vpon our necessities, sent money the next day, and immediatly after gaue vs a moneths meanes in mony, and two moneths meanes in cloath, to make vs apparrell.

Of the cloath we receiued some part, but the money being paid, was by our Captaines sent into England, to their wiues; no part of it euer coming to the poore common Souldiers hands: for presently vpon this, we were commanded aboard the ships, with promise that when we were aboard we should haue our money. But being in 5 ships vnder hatches, away were we carryed with provision onely of one moneths victuals, when by reason of the weather we were forced to lye eight weekes at sea: in all which time we had nothing but pickelled herrings, and salt stremlings, with some small quantity of hard dyed meates: by which ill dyet, many of our men fell sicke and dyed. In the ship wherein I was, we liued foureteene dayes without bread, all our best fode being salt herrings, which we were glad to eate raw; the best of vs all hauing no better sustenance.

At the last it pleased God to send vs to a place called Vfrasound in Fynland, where we landed, (Fynland being subiect to the King of Sweueland.) From Vfrasound we were to goe to Weyborough, a chiefe towne in the country of Fynland: where we no sooner arriued, but our Souldiers ran some one way, and some another, so long that the Captaines were left alone with the ships. This running away of them, being done onely to seeke fode, so great was their hunger.

By this carelesse dispersing themselves, they lost the command of the whole country, which they might easily haue had, if they had bene vnited together: and not onely were depriued of that benefite, but of houses also which were allowed by the King for them to ride vpon.

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So that, what by the reason of the tedious iourney, (which we were to trauele, being fourescore leagues) and what by reason of the extreme cold, being a moneth before Christmas, at which time the snow fell, and neuer went off the ground vntill Whitsontide following, but all the raine and all the the snow that fell, freezing continually, diuers of our men were sterued to death with the frost.



Some lost their fingers, some their toes, some their noses, many their liues: insomuch that when wee all met at Weyborough, we could make no more but 1400. able men; and yet when we were landed at Vtrasound

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Vfrasound we were 2000. strong, the extremity of the cold country hauing killed so many of our Souldiers in so little time.

At our landing at Weyborough we had good hopes to receiue better comforts, both of money and victuals: for the inhabitants told vs, the King had allowed it vs, and in that report they spake truth: yet contrary to our expectation, we lay there about 14. dayes, and had nothing but a little Rice, of which we made bread, and a little butter, which was our best reliefe. Drinke had we none, nor money: our Captaines gaue vs certaine leatherne pelches onely made of sheeps skinner, to keepe vs from the cold.

At this place we receiued Armes to defend vs against the enemy, and fire companies that were allowed by the King for horsemen, receiued horses there. From thence we were to march into Russia, where our enemies continued. But the iourney was long and vncomfortable: for we marched from Petweares day vntill Whitson-tide, continually in snow, hauing no rest, but onely a little in the nights. So that the miseries and misfortunes whith we endured vpon the borders of Fynland, were almost insufferable, by reason the number of them seemed infinite. For all the people had forsaken their houses long before wee came, because they were euermore oppressed by Souldiers: by which meanes wee could get neither meate nor drinke, but were glad to hunt cats, and to kill them, or any beast wee could lay hold on, and this we baked, and made them serue for dayly sustenance.

The greatest calamity of all was, we could get no water to drinke, it had bene so long frozen vp, and the snow so deepe, that it was hard to say, whether we marched o-uer water, or vpon land. So that we were compelled to digge vp snow, and with stones red hot, to melt in tubs. and then to drinke it.

This

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This affliction continued about 12. or 14. dayes, till we came into Russia. Upon our very first entrance into which kingdome, we marched ouer an Arme of the Sea, that was 8. leagues ouer, many of vs steruing to death in that passage, by the cold freezing winds that blew the same day. In which frosty iourney, I saw so much bzead as a man might buy for twelue pence, sold away in little bits for the value of forty shillings.

But this misery ended the next day, at our setting foot into Russia, where we found plenty both of cozne and cattle; onely the people of the country ran away, leauing all their goods behinde them, but so cunningly hidden, that the best pollicy of ours could hardly finde them out.

By this meanes of the peoples running away, wee were glad to play the Millers, and to grinde all our cozne our selues, to bake our bzead, and to dresse our owne victuals. Then marched we vp to Nouegrade, (a chiefe citty in Russia) where we were to receiue all our meanes & rested behiud vnpayed: but our Captains beguiled vs, and kept it for themselues: yet to stop our mouthes, they told vs we should go into Muscouy, and there all reckonings should be made euen.

Whe had scarce marched aboue thze dayes towards Muscouy, but that nelues came, how a certaine number of our enemies lay in a sconce by the way; the strength of them was not perfectly knowne, but it was thought they were not aboue 700. And y^e we must vse some stratagem to expell them fro thence: vpon which relation, our Captains prein forth to the number of 300. English hozsmen, and 200. French hozsmen: so that in all we were about 500. that were appointed to set vpon the supposed 700. Polanders (our enemies) that so lay intrenched: vpon whom we went. Our chiefe Commander in that seruice was Monsieur La Veile, a French man, who so valiantly led vs on, that the enemy hearing of our comming, fled ouer a water that was by the sconce; yet not with such

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spoilde, but that we slew to the number of 400. of their
siae, and lost onely thzee men of our owne: but we toke
the sconce.

About the sconce stood a faire towne called Arioua, with
a riuer called the Volga, running thzough the middle,
but no bzidge ouer it: onely a few boates and. floates,
(made & cut out of trees) were there, to carry the people
ouer from the one halfe of the towne to the other.

This sconce furnished vs not only with great store of
riches, but also with a number of Polish hozles: and as
many armes as serued to arme 500. men, our want of
that commodify being as much as of any thing besides:
foz of those fise hundred men that went vpon the seruice,
there were not 300. fired armes; yet thzough the hand
of him that deales victozies, o2 ouerthzows, as it pleaseth
him best, the day was ours.

Ouer this riner Volga the enemies were neuer diuē
befoze, either by the Emperour of Russia, o2 by the King
of Sweueland: fo2 which cause (as afterward we heard)
the next day when they departed from the other side of
the riuer, they burnt that halfe of the town on which side
they were themselues, and in most bloudy, barbarous, &
cruell manner, made hauock both of men, women, & chil-
dzen, albeit (not aboue halfe a yeare befoze, & inhabitants
on that side had reuolted from their owne Emperour, &
turned to thē. In which tyrannical opzore, their custome
was, to fill a house full of people, & then (the doores being
locked vpon them, that none might issue forth) the house
was fired about their eares: and oftentimes were yong
children taken by the heeles, and cast into the middest of
f flames. This inhumane tyranny being pzactised not
ouely by the Poles, that were our enemies, but euen by
those Russes that were traytoys to their owne Empe-
perour, & serued vnder the Poles, and were called Cal-
sakes, whose cruelty farre exceeded the Polish.

The towne being thus burnt to f earth, all the 6000.
(which

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(which as I said before, fled ouer y^e riuer, out of y^e sconce, & were by vs supposed to be but 700.) came down in full battallion to y^e riuers side with such fiercenesse, as if presently they and their hozses would haue sworn ouer, to fight with vs, which being perceiued, our poze 500. stood ready to resist them. But whether they feared our numbers to be greater then they were, and y^e we had some other secret forces, I know not; but away they marched, y^e selfe same day in which they came downe in that brauery not doing any thing; of which we for our parts, were not much sorry, because if the battailes had ioyned, we knew our selues farre vnable to withstand them. And this was the seruice of the most note, that we went vpon.

Two or thre other sconces & towne we toke from our enemies, they not once daring to resist vs, because they knew nothing of our numbers & force. But the dishonest dealings of our Captaines, made the whole army discontent; insomuch y^e our Souldiers would often times deny to go forth vpon seruice, because they had bene almost a yeare in the land, and had receiued no more but one Rubble. (amounting to the value of 10 s. English.) So that vpon these discontents, 50. of our men ran away to the enemy at one time, & discovered to them our strength. After which we durst not be so bold as before we had bene.

The fire of a new conspiracy was likewise kindling, but it was perceiued, and quenched with the blood of y^e conspirators, of which the chiefe were hanged. On there-fore we went: when we came within 40. leagues of Mulcouy, newes was brought that the enemy had beleaguered 7000. Russes that were our friends, and that vnlesse we forced the siege to breake vp, the 7000. Russes would euery man bee serued where they lay. This sad report, (albeit we had resolved neuer to go vpon any more seruice, untill we had our pay) so wrought in our hearts, that we much pittied the miseries of others, because we our selues had tasted of the like.

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Our Generall (whose name was Euerhorne) was a Fynlander, and with a company of Fynland blades (as they tearme them,) well appointed on horsebacke, was by the King of Sweueland, sent after vs, as our Conuoy, vntil we should come to Pontus le Guard, who was chiefe Generall ouer the whole army of strangers that came into the land: so that according as he was sent and charged by the King, he ouertooke vs befoze we came to Arioua. By the intreaty therfore of this Fynlander, and the flattering promises of our owne Captaines, we were contented to go vpon this seruice, and to deliuer the Russes, or to dye our selues in the action. Yet with condition, that (as they promised to vs) wee should by the way, meeete our chiefe Generall (Pontus le Guard) who with certaine numbers of English, French, & Dutch, (which the yeare befoze were come into the land) was vpon a march out of Muscouy, not onely to meeete vs, but to ioyne with vs, and pay vs all our money which remained good to vs; prouided likewise, that so soone as euer we should release the 7000. Russes, our money should be payed downe. On these conditions (I say) we yielded to go vpon the businesse.

At length Pontus le Guard met vs (according to the promise:) and with him was money brought to pay vs, and his word giuen that presently wee should receiue it. But the lamentable estate, in which the poore besieged Russes were (within the sconce) being at the point of death for want of food, required rather speedy execution, then deliberation: so that the necessities of their hard fortunes craning haste, on we went, hauing about 19. or 20000. Russes, that were people of the same country, ioyned to our army, to aide them in this enterprize. But as we all were vpon a march, the enemy hauing receiued intelligence of our approaching, set forward to the number of 8000. Lancers and more, to intercept vs by the way: and being within one dayes march of the place to
which

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which we were likewise going, they set fire vpon thre or foure villages hard by the place where we lay at grasse with our horses, for a token that they were comming. And this was done vpon Midsummer day last in the morning, by breake of day. Then came they thundring with shouts and cries to set vpon vs: but no sooner was the Alarum giuen, when the greatest part of those 19. or 20000. Russes, that were ioyned to vs as our aide, fled most basely, before any blow was giuen. This sodaine cowardize of theirs, somewhat amazed vs: but the houre being now come, wherein we were not to talke of dangers, but to go meete dangers, with our fire companies of English horse, we brauely resisted the Polanders, and with great hurt to them, but with little losse vpon our part, charged them thre severall times.

At last Pontus le Guard (our chiefe Generall) toke his heales and fled to, leaving vs utterly destitute of all direction: which much astonished vs, as not well understanding what to do: for our greatest strength (being by their flight) taken from vs, none but we strangers were left in the field, and of vs there was not in all, above two thousand, and of that number there were aboute six hundred French horsemen, who seeing both the Generall gone, and the Russes fled, turned their backs vpon vs, and ran away too most valiantly, yet not out of the field, but to the enemy.

Then were we not above twelue or fourtene hundred at the most, left to resist eight thousand at the least: vpon whom notwithstanding, our fire companies of English horsemen, charged thre severall times, without any great losse, but with much honour: And at the fourth time, for want of powers to second them (which the French should haue done) all our fire companies were scattered and ouerthrowne with the losse of few of our colours. The captaines ouer these fire companies of horse, were these.

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of Captaine *Crale*, of whose company I was.
 Captaine *Kendricke*.
Viz. Captaine *Benson*.
 Captaine *Carre*.
 Captaine *Colbron*.
 Captaine *Creyton*.

Which five Captaines had not in all their companies, above 500. men.

In this battaille, Captaine *Creyton* was slaine in the field; Captaine *Crale* was shot in the knee, and within a short time after, dyed of that wound; not above twelue of his company escaping. Captaine *Kendricke* was wounded in diuers places of the head, and dyed. Captaine *Benson* was shot in the hand, and wounded in the head, and yet escaped, and liued: onely Captaine *Carre* and his Cornet escaped, but all his company scattered & lost. Diuers other Officers were slaine, whose names I cannot remember.

Thus were all our English horsemen dispersed and ouerthrowne, to the number of 500. and vpwards: Our Generall *Everhorne* with his companies of *Fynland*, or *Fynsko* blades, were also put to retraite: so that there was not left in the field, above 6. or 700. which were footmen. And of these, one halfe was English, one halfe Dutch, who kept onely a certaine place by a wood side, barricadoed about with Wagons, hauing with them foure field peeces, with which they did great spoyle to the enemy. But their number being but few, neither durst they venture on the enemy, nor durst the enemy enter vpon them, but kept them still (as it were besieged) in that place only, because they could no wayes escape. The inconuenience of which coping vp in so narrow a rowme, being looked into, and the dangers on euery side well considered, it was held fittest for safety, to summon the enemy to a parley. In which parley, the enemy offered, that if they would yeld, and fall to their sides, they should haue

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haue good quarter kept. And if any man had desire to go for his owne country, he should haue liberty to go with a passport, from the King of Poland. Or if any would serue the King of Poland, he should haue the allowance of very good meanes duly paid him. Upon these compositions they all yielded, and went to the enemy; only Captaine Yorke & his Officers, with some few of their Souldiers, went backe into the country, and came not to the enemy; as the rest had done: who from thence marched vp to the Polish Leaguer, being ten miles distant from the place, and there they continued. But such as desired to trauaile to their owne countries, were sent to the King of Poland's Leaguer, which lay at that time, at a place called Smolensco, and there accordingly had their Passe, to the number of 100. of which number I my selfe was one. What became of the rest, I know not: but I with five more, held together in tranasle, vntill we came to Dantzicke, a great towne in Prussia, being distant from Smolensco, one hundred leagues.

FINIS.

